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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
)  
Nicholas Alan Timothy COLFORD, et al ) Group Art Unit:  
)  
Application No.: Not Yet Assigned )  
)  
Filed: August 22, 2000 )  
)  
For: CONTAINER EQUIPPED WITH AT ) Examiner:  
LEAST ONE CLOSURE DEVICE )

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above referenced application, please amend the claims as follows:

Please amend claims 1-14 as follows:

1. (Amended) A container equipped with a closure device that permits a user to manipulate or withdraw an object placed within said container, wherein said closure device has a plane and is comprised of a closure means that can deform elastically essentially in the plane of the closure device to change from a closed state of rest under no external stress to an open active state under an external stress.

2. (Amended) The container as claimed in claim 1, wherein the closure device comprises at least one rigid peripheral support structure attached to which is the closure means that is comprised of elastically deformable means which intersect each other and surround a closure member such that when the elastically deformable means are in a state of rest under no external stress the closure member is closed.